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## GIFT FROM SAMUEL P. AVERY.

Early in January the Art Institute received a valuable gift from Mr. Samuel P. Avery, who has been for many years well known in art circles in New York, and who is now retired from business and living in Hartford, Conn. Mr. Avery presented to the Art Institute Ten Thousand Dollars in money, which is to be kept as a permanent fund, the income from which is to be used for the purchase of pictures or other art objects for the permanent collection. The gift was entirely unexpected to the Trustees and Officers of the Art Institute, and is greatly valued as a manifestation of confidence from outside of Chicago. Mr. Avery writes: "My long acquaintance with many of the Art lovers of Chicago and an increasing interest in the good work done by so many of our public-spirited citizens all over the United States induces me to give the money now rather than leave it in my will for some future date."

The Thirty-second Free Lecture Course of the Field Museum of Natural History is now in progress in Fullerton Memorial Hall, Saturdays at 3 p. m. The remaining lectures are as follows:

April 2—Cliff Dwellers and Pueblos. Mrs. Gilbert McClurg, Regent General, The Colorado Cliff Dwellers Association.

April 9—Some Alaskan Glaciers. Prof. U. S. Grant, Northwestern University.

April 16—Fossil Hunting. Mr. E. S. Riggs, Assistant Curator, Division of Paleontology.

April 23—Human Development and Evolution. Dr. Frank Lillie, University of Chicago.

April 30—The Colorado River. Prof. O. C. Farrington, Curator, Department of Geology.

## A NEW MOVEMENT—THE FRIENDS OF AMERICAN ART.

The management of the Art Institute has long been aware of the inadequate representation in its galleries of works of American art. A visitor to an art museum in any country naturally expects to find a full representation of the artists of that country. But the Art Institute possesses only about twenty important American paintings, by such artists as Inness, Brush, Chase, Dannat and Tanner, together with a few good American sculptures. This state of things is accidental, the Institute having no purchasing fund with which to remedy it.

A movement of great promise has now been undertaken, in great part outside of the Art Institute, for the acquisition of American paintings and sculptures. An organization has been formed called the Friends of American Art, for the sole purpose of establishing a fund for the purchase of American works of art for the collection of the Art Institute. No such society is known to exist elsewhere in America, although there has been a society of a similar name in Paris, the "Société des Amis du Louvre," whose members subscribe 20 francs annually for the purchase of paintings for the gallery of the Louvre.

The Chicago Friends of American Art sign a pledge of intention to give \$1,000 each, in installments of \$200 each year, as follows: "As a Friend of American Art I hereby declare my intention of contributing annually for five years, beginning with 1910, Two Hundred Dollars toward the purchase and presentation to the Art Institute of Chicago for permanent exhibition, of selected works by the best American artists, reserving the right to pay in full at any time. This is simply a declaration of intention and shall not be construed as a contract."